

House Resolution 1772

By: Representatives Buckner of the 130th, Abrams of the 84th, Kaiser of the 59th, Thomas of the 55th, Carter of the 175th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging health care providers to provide unrestricted coverage for the treatment and
2 prevention of lymphedema and urging hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care
3 providers to require any lymphedema treatment to be conducted by nationally certified
4 lymphedema therapists; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization cites lymphedema as the second leading cause
6 of disability in the world; and

7 WHEREAS, lymphedema is the swelling in the body resulting from an accumulation of fluid
8 in the tissue caused through a genetic condition or by a disruption in the lymphatic system's
9 ability to clean and filter lymph fluid in the body; and

10 WHEREAS, lymphedema can occur at any time in a person's life after an initial injury to the
11 lymphatic system and if it is not treated properly, it can progress and cause a high risk of
12 infection, can result in expensive hospitalizations and antibiotic treatments, and can cause
13 disabling or even fatal conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, lymphedema is a chronic condition requiring lifelong management, and proper
15 treatment can increase the patient's quality of life; and

16 WHEREAS, the treatment of lymphedema is simpler to manage and far less expensive than
17 the complications that can occur from lack of treatment; and

18 WHEREAS, presently health care coverage for lymphedema falls under rehabilitation
19 benefits; and

20 WHEREAS, lymphedema is a chronic condition and should have unrestricted coverage; and

1 WHEREAS, national certification for lymphedema therapists is available through the
2 Lymphology Association of North America; and

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia does not currently require that lymphedema treatment be
4 performed by certified lymphedema therapists and anecdotal evidence suggests that many
5 hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care providers in this state do not require that
6 lymphedema treatment be performed by certified lymphedema therapists.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 health care providers in this state are strongly urged to provide unrestricted coverage for the
9 treatment and prevention of lymphedema.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other health care
11 providers in this state are strongly urged to require any lymphedema treatment to be
12 conducted by nationally certified lymphedema therapists.